

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 113936  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DPFOTENHAUER

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:RPERITO

-----181048Z 059386 /14

O 181021Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 113936

EXDIS MILITARY PLEASE HANDLE AS SPECAT

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 8166 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USMISSION  
NATO BONN USDEL MBFR VIENNA MAY 18.  
QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 08166

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 3421

1. WE SPOKE MAY 17 WITH PATRICK MOBERLY, ASSISTANT  
UNDER SECRETARY IN THE FCO, ABOUT BRITISH REACTION  
TO GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL. MOBERLY CONFIRMED AS  
STATED REFTEL THAT UK HAS NO ENTHUSIASM FOR IDEA OF AN  
UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION. THAT STEP, MOBERLY SAID,  
WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE IT COULD NOT BE  
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PLAUSIBLY EXPLAINED TO THE EAST.

2. MOBERLY ALSO NOTED THAT THE FRG WAS STILL CONCERNED  
ABOUT AGREEING TO NATIONAL DESIGNATION OF MAJOR UNITS  
AND BREAKDOWN OF REMAINING FORCES INTO NATIONALLY  
DESIGNATED COMPONENTS. THE BRITISH HAD GOTTEN THE WORD  
THAT RUTH WAS INCREASINGLY WORRIED THAT THIS WOULD

TRANSPARENTLY RESULT IN TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS BY ANOTHER NAME. MOBERLY CONTINUED THAT ALTHOUGH BRITISH DO NOT AGREE WITH GERMANS, ALLIES MAY BE FORCED BY FRG INTRANSIGENCE TO LOOK FOR OTHER KINDS OF DIS-AGGREGATION CLUES TO GIVE TO THE EAST.

3. MOBERLY CONCLUDED THAT BRITISH BELIEVE THAT DIS-AGGREGATION SHOULD PROCEED ONLY THROUGH CORPS LEVEL. IF DIVISIONS WERE INCLUDED, THIS WOULD ONLY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SOVIET REJECTION OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT FCO IS NOW RESPONDING TO EVOLVING GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL WITH MARKED CYNICISM. THE BRITISH ARE PERFECTLY AWARE THAT WITHOUT NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS, THE FRG IDEA HAS LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE UK HAS DECIDED TO PUSH THE GERMANS A BIT AND THEN ALLOW FRG TO SHAPE ITS PROPOSAL PRETTY MUCH AS IT WISHES AND GET ON WITH EXPEDITIOUSLY PRESENTING IT TO THE EAST. IF THE INITIATIVE SUCCEEDS SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF IT IS REJECTED AND WHEN IT THUS BECOMES CLEAR THAT THIS PARTICULAR ALLIED EMPEROR IS WEARING TOO FEW CLOTHES TO SUIT THE SOVIETS, HMG MAY HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE GERMANS TO TAKE THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP--TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS.

SPIERS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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